



The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

The New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation was established under the auspices of Mr. James Spiniello. Its board is composed of volunteers interested in the preservation, maintenance, and development of public, historical gardens. The Foundation is working with, but not funded by, the National Park Service, U. S. Department of Interior, to preserve the Cross Estate Gardens.

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Cross Estate Gardens Plant Sale

Saturday, May 21

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine

“Come one — come all” to our spring Plant Sale, held under the pergola in the Cross Estate Gardens. Our Plant Sale will be filled with divisions from our shady native plant garden and from our sunny walled garden, plus donated plants from our volunteers’ gardens. In addition to perennials, we will have some small trees and shrubs. All funds raised at this sale will help the volunteers of the NJHGF care for the Cross Estate Gardens. Your support of our Plant Sale is greatly appreciated!



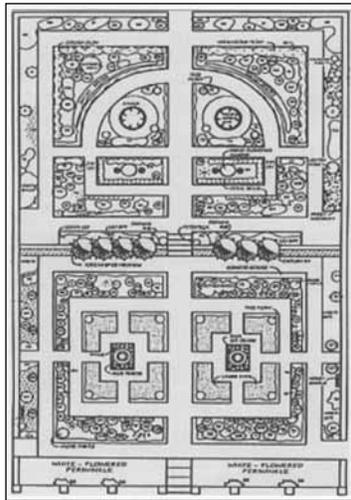
Board members Mary Keselica and Judy Spiniello at our 2010 Plant Sale

Fall Flurry: Thursday, October 6

Save the date for our Fall Flurry on Thursday, October 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the library of the Cross Estate mansion. Noted speaker Jenny Rose Carey of Temple University will entertain us with photos and anecdotes of historic gardens of the 1920s. A Country Afternoon Tea will be served. Admission is \$25 for NJHGF members and \$30 for non-members.

Grants Received This Spring

The Garden Club of Somerset Hills has once again given a generous grant to NJHGF which will enable us to renovate eight more beds in the lower walled garden. Last year we were able to renovate two large perennial beds, thanks to a prior grant from them. Renovation involves digging out the existing perennials, many of which have become invasive, amending the soil with many yards of compost and replanting the beds with new perennials selected for continuous bloom in the garden, plus replacing some of the prior perennials that are deemed worthy. Be sure to visit the walled garden and watch our progress.



Walled Garden

The Watnong Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society has also given us another generous grant which will enable us to provide more plant signage in the walled garden and the native garden. Last year we were able to add 22 metal accession tags on woody plants and 159 new labels on perennials. This year we will be able to continue our plant signage program, which will help answer the “what is that?” question we are always being asked.



Native Garden — in need of plant signage

Volunteer Spotlight on Ray Andrews

Ray Andrews has been a volunteer at the Cross Estate Gardens for the last decade and served on the NJHGF Board of Trustees for many years. Since he now splits his time between his Mendham residence, Naples Florida and the Finger Lakes in New York, he has retired from the board as of last December. Ray enjoys gardening and is the person we can all count on to help prune (tame) the beloved wisteria that constantly threatens to engulf our pergola, create and maintain pathways and to do the more mundane tasks like mowing the lawn in the rhododendron garden and by the Cross house. “I find peace and a sense of personal satisfaction at the Cross Estate and am happy others can enjoy it as well”. In fact, his love for the place runs quite deep. Nearly 4 years ago he was married to Eileen Nielson and had a beautiful ceremony in the garden!



Ray was born in New Kensington, PA and received his BS in education at Ohio Northern University. He moved back to the Pittsburgh area to earn his Masters Degree at Duquesne University. After teaching english and history to high schoolers for 13 years he moved to NJ to serve as the Head Master at Newark Academy. He then put his educational skills to the test at AT&T and Lucent developing technical training for new products and became a Product Manager. He wound up his career investigating serious telephone fraud perpetrated by “hackers” and negotiating settlements. Nowadays when he is not traveling around the globe vacationing at exotic places, he can be frequently found on the golf course, in addition to volunteering in his favorite garden — the Cross Estate Gardens.



Ray pruning wisteria

Toyota Volunteers

Thirty-five employees from Toyota Motor Sales in West Caldwell and Parsippany volunteered in the gardens at the Cross Estate last September 24. Although the day was foggy and raw, the volunteers were undaunted in their efforts and accomplishments. One group turned over one large perennial bed in the walled garden and incorporated seven yards of compost into the bed, making it ready for fall renovation planting. Another group weeded the stilt grass and other weeds in the entranceway to the historic stone water tower and put down ten yards of wood chips to help suppress future weeds. Others weeded the stilt grass and put down wood chips in the Mountain Laurel Allée and cut down invasive shrubs and small trees in Grace's garden. It was truly a wonderful day of accomplishments. Thank you Toyota!



Join our Volunteers

From early April through the end of November, our hearty group of volunteers meets every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon to work in the historic Walled Garden, the Native Plant Garden, the Mountain Laurel Allée, and other garden areas near the Cross Estate home. Tea/coffee/hot chocolate plus baked treats and fruit are provided during our 10:30 a.m. coffee break under the pergola. Please join us every Wednesday morning, or whenever your schedule allows. Last year our volunteers, including 63 corporate volunteers, worked 4,378 hours in the Cross Estate Gardens. Quite impressive!

Tours of the Cross Estate Gardens

Tours of the gardens are available every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Tours take approximately one-half hour. If your group would like to schedule a tour of the gardens on another day or time, please contact Joan Ryder at 973-376-0348. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person for group tours.

Visit Us Online

Be sure to check out the Cross Estate Gardens website at www.crossestategardens.org. It was redesigned in 2006 by our webmaster Ann Campbell and funded by a grant from the NJ Committee of the Garden Club of America. Our sponsor for the grant was the Garden Club of Somerset Hills. We thank all for their generosity.

Ann continues to periodically expand and update the site. If you have any suggestions for more improvements, please use the “contact us” tab on the site.

You can also visit us on **Facebook** — search for Cross Estate Gardens or go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cross-Estate-Gardens/146692902063110>.

Become a Member

The NJHGF is always looking for new members to support its all-volunteer work in the Cross Estate Gardens. Every dollar donated goes into the gardens. Please become a member today, if you're not already a supporter. Membership rates are as follows:

Individual	\$25	Family	\$40
Friend	\$100	Sponsor	\$250
Patron	\$500		

Please mail your check, payable to NJHGF, to NJ Historical Garden Foundation, PO Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924-0712. Thank you.

Come to the Plant Sale

Saturday, May 21

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rain or Shine

“The early bird catches the worm!”

The Cross Estate Gardens
New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation
Post Office Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

